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# Truxton King

SYNOPSIS OF FIRST CHAPTERS.

(Continued From Yesterday.

Marianx trained two of his big guns on the camp in the hills. From the fortress he threw many futile shells toward their place of shelter. They did no damage; instead of death, they brought only laughter to the scornful camp. Under cover of night the two Ganlook cannons were planted in a position commanding the southeastern city gate. It was the plan of the new besiegers to bombard this gate, tearing it to pieces with shot.

The knowledge that Marlanx had no blg guns except those stationed in the fortress was most consoling to Tullis and his friends. He could not destroy the castle gates with shells, except by purest chance. He could drop shells into the castle, but to hit a gate twenty feet wide? Never!

Truxton King was growing haggard from worry and loss of sleep. He could not understand the abominable, criminal procrastination. He was of arace that did things with a dash and on the spur of the moment. His soul sickened day by day. John Tullis, equally unhappy, but more philosophical, often found him seated upon a rock at the top of the ravine, an unlighted pipe in his fingers, his eyes in tent upon the hazy castle.

"Cheer up. King. Our time will come." he was wont to say.

Then came the night before the proposed assault on the gates. The guns were in position, and the cannonading was to begin at daybreak. Truxton was full of the bitterness of doubt and misgiving. Was she in love with Vos Engo? Was the count's suit progressing favorably under the fire of the enemy? Was his undoubted bravery having its effect upon the wavering susceptibilities of the distressed Loraine?

The sound of a voice in sharp command attracted his attention. There was a bright moon, and Truxton could see other pickets hurrying to join the first. A few moments later several trespassers were escorted through the lines and taken directly to headquarters-a man and two women, King observed.

John Tullis was staring hard at the group approaching from the roadway. One woman walked ahead of her companions. Suddenly he sprang forward with a cry of amazement.

It was the Countess Incomede. Her arrival created a sensation. In

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a moment she was in the center of an | Truxton King, an American million-aire's son, tired of the humdrum life amazed circle of men. Tullis, after and sets out to have some adventures. his first low, eager greeting at the He reaches the kingdom of Graustark. edge of the fire circle, drew her near to the warmth giving flames. Prince Dantan and Captain Haas threw rugs and blankets in a great heap for her to sit upon. Every one was talking at once. The countess was smiling through her tears. "Make room for my maid and her father. They are colder and more fatigued than I," she said, lifting her tired, glorious eyes to John Tullis, who stood beside her. "We have come from Balak. They

> share with them." "Thank God, you are here!" he said in low, intense tones. She could not mistake the fervor in his voice nor the glow in his eyes.

suffered much that I might enjoy the

slender comforts I was so ready to

"I knew you were here, John. I am not going back to Count Marlanx. It "I knew it would come, Ingomede.

You will let me tell you how glad I

am some day.' "Some day, when I am truly, wholly free from him, John. I know what you will say, and I think you know what I shall say in reply." Both un-

derstood and were exalted. No other word passed between them touching upon the thing that was uppermost in their minds.

Food was provided for the wayfarers, and Tullis' tent was made ready for the countess and her maid.

The countess' story was soon told. Sitting before the great fire, surrounded by eager listeners, she related her God!"

She had been seized on the night of the ball as she started across her father's garden, and escape had become possible only through the aid of Josepha and the girl's father. Farmers' wives told them of the newly formed army and of its leaders. She determined to make her way to the camp of those who would destroy her husband, eager to give them any assistance that her own knowledge of Marlanx's plans might provide.

One bit of information she gave

reated no end of consternation among the would be deliverers of the city. It had the effect of making them all the more resolute; the absolute necessity for immediately regaining control in the city was forced upon them. She told them that Count Marianx had lately received word that the Grand Duke Paulus was likely to intervene before many days, acting on his own initiative, in the belief that he could force the government of Graustark to grant the rallway privileges so much alized that he would have to forestall | struck him in the shoulder. the wily grand duke. If he were in If you are suffering from any form of ernment when the Russian appeared skin or scalp disease, would you like to he, and he alone, would be in a post-

"The grand duke may send a large force of men across the border at any wants his customers to know that it is time," said the countess in conclusion. "Count Marlanx Is sure to make a declsive assault as soon as he hears that the movement has begun. He had hopes of starving them out, thus saving the castle from destruction, but as that seems unlikely his shells will soon begin to rain in earnest upon the dear old pile."

Truxton King was listening with wide open ears. As she finished this dreary prediction he silently arose to his feet and, without a word to any one, stalked off in the darkness. Tul-Ils looked after him and shook his head

"I'll be happy on that fellow's account when daybreak comes and we are really at it," he said to Prince Dantan, who knew something of King's affliction

But Truxton King was not there at daybreak. When he strode out of the camp that night he left it behind for-

The unfortunate lack of means to communicate with the occupants of the castle had been the source of great distress to Captain Haas. If the defenders could be informed as to the exact hour of the assault from the outside they could do much toward its speedy success by making a fierce sortie from behind their own walls. A quick dash from the castle grounds would serve to draw Marianx's attention in that direction, diminishing the force that he would send to check the onslaught at the gates.

Truxton King had all this in mind as he swung off down the mountain road, having stolen past the sentries with comparative ease. The danger from Marlanx's scouts outside the city was not great; they had been scattered and beaten by Haas' recruiting parties. He stood in more danger from the men be would help, they who were the watchful defenders of the castle.

It must have been 2 o'clock when he crossed the king's highway, a mile or more above the northern gates, and struck down into the same thick undergrowth that had protected him and Hobbs on a memorable night not long before

At 3 o'clock a dripping figure threw up his hands obligingly and laughed with exultation when confronted by a startled guardsman inside the castle walls and not more than fifty yards from the water gate. He shouted a friendly cry as he advanced toward the man, calling out his own name.

Ten minutes later he was standing in the presence of the haggard, nerve racked Quinnox, pouring into his astonished ears the news of the coming attack. The colonel lost no time in routing out the sleeping guardsmen and reserves and in sending come grade work is comparatively light, and

mands to those already on duty at the

By George Barr

When the sun peeped over the lofty hills he saw inside the gates a rest-

less, waiting company of dragoons ready for the command to ride forth. Meantime King had crossed the grounds with Colonel Quinnox on the way to the castle. He was amazed, almost stupefied, by the devastation that aiready had been wrought. A dozen or more balls had crashed into the facade. Yawning fissures, gigantic holes, marked the path of the ugly messengers from Marlanx. Nearly all of the windows had been wrecked by riflemen who shot from the reefs of palaces in and about the avenue. Two of the smaller minarets were in ruins. A huge pillar in the lower balcony was gone. The terrace had been plowed up by a single ricochetting shell.

"They began bombarding yesterday afternoon. We were asked to surrender at 3 o'clock. Our reply brought the shells, Mr. King. It was terrible. After the first two or three shells we found places of shelter for the the stone tower beyond the castle. The most glorious courage is shown. Count Vos Engo guards the prince and the ladies of the household. Alas, it was hunger that we feared the most. Today we should have resorted to horse's flesh. There was no other way. We knew that relief would come some day.

"Great God!" gasped King.

today! This shall be our day, thank

John Tullis was there. And now it is

Attendants sped to the tower, shouting the battle tidings.

The prince came tumbling down the narrow iron stairs from his room above, shouting joyously to, Truxton King. No man was ever so welcome. He was besieged with questions, handshakings and praises. Even the Duke of Perse, hobbling on crutches, had a kindly greeting for him. Tears streamed down the old man's cheeks when King told him of his daughter's safe arrival in the friendly camp.

But just now Truxton was staring at the narrow staircase. Vos Engo and Loraine were descending slowly. The former was white and evidently very weak. He leaned on the girl for Count Halfont offered the explana-

tion. "Vos Engo was shot last week through the shoulder. He is too brave to give up, as you may see. It happened on the terrace. There was an unexpected fusillade from the housetops. Eric placed himself between the marksmen and Miss Tullis. A bullet desired by his country. Marlanx re- that might have killed her instantly

King never forgot the look in Loabsolute control of the Graustark gov. raine's eyes as she came down the ernment when the Russian appeared steps. Joy and anguish seemed to combine themselves in that long, intense look

She gave him her hands. The look in her tired eyes went straight to his heart. Vos Engo drew back, his face set in a frown of displeasure. "My brother?" she asked, without taking her gaze from his eyes.

"He is well. He will see you today." "And you, Truxton?" was her next question, low and quavering. "Unharmed and unchanged, Lo-

raine," he said softly. "Tell me, did Vos Engo stand between you and the fire from the"-



she said, dropping her eyes as if in deep pain. "And you have not-broken your promise to him?" "No; nor have I broken my promises to you."

"Yes, Truxton."

"He is a brave man. I can't belp saving it," said the American, deep lines suddenly appearing in his face. Swiftly he turned to Vos Engo, extending his hand, "My hand, sir, to a brave

NOR HAVE I BRO-KEN MY PROMISE man!"" TO YOU."

Vos Engo stared at him for a moment and then turned away, ignoring the friendly hand. A hot flush mounted to Loraine's brow. Vos Engo's response was a short, bitter laugh.

(To Be Continued.)

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Operate. Del Rio, Texas, July 30 .- Railroad deelopment has taken on a new life in this section within the past few days and the promise of Del Rio becoming a great railroad center and an important port of entry will be realized

within a comparatively short time. H. M. Taylor, assistant general manager, director, and official in charge of construction of the merger lines of Mexico; G. P. DeWolf, another official of the Mexican lines, with headquarters at Monterey; J. Q. Lyman, locating engineer; and J. S. Nickerson, railroad contractor, have been here finishing up the work of locating their line from Allende to Del Rio and getting matters in shape for the actual construction to begin. Mr. Nickerson, is is understood, will have the contract for grading and construction and the work will start within 30 days and will be rushed to an early completion. The line is but 80 miles long, the

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ed to be put on at the start. ent has announced that it will probably operate trains to Del Rio within 18 months. The Mexican lines expect to have trains running into Del Rio before the Orient. The local situation could not be more promising.

J. F. Collins, engineer in charge of the locating of the Corpus Christi & prince and his friends. They are in Del Rio raffroad, commonly supposed to be an Orient projection, is now finishing his survey into the city and is tieing up with one of the Orient's terminal lines, with a view of a possible union station for the two lines. Just when construction on the gulf coast line will start is not yet announced. but it will probably be very soon, as the three roads now headed for Del Rio are all anxious to get here as soon as possible and get the busi-

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